

many nations should be so zealously striving to gain strongholds. The Russians especially are putting up substantial buildings on commanding sites, and it is whispered about that the Czar hopes to add to his list of titles that of "Pope of Jerusalem." The

the Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldee, Samaritan, and Latin nations twenty-two. The Greek Alphabet contains twenty-four letters, the French twenty-five, and the German and Dutch, like our own, twenty-six. The Spanish and Slavonic each boast

whether the mysterious power of "the talking leaf" was a gift of the Great Spirit to the "pale-face," or was a discovery the white man had made for himself. To the latter belief evidently inclined See-Quah-Yah, a half breed, who has since been called the "American Cadmus," for he it was who, being confined to his wigwam by lameness, set his wits to work, and, after months of labor—during which he was assisted by his daughter—produced the eighty-six rude characters which represent the guttural utterances of the Cherokees. To a class of chosen young "braves" he imparted his wonderful invention, while all his countrymen—proud of his talent—held him in highest reverence, as one favored by the Great Spirit. The United States Government also encouraged him by having a font of type cast for his alphabet, and a newspaper was established at New Echola, printed partly in Cherokee and partly in English. To his white friends this benefactor of his race was known as "George Guess."

The manner of teaching dull children the mystic little characters which seem so insignificant and yet mean so much has often been very curious. Thus, we read that Herodes devised an original plan to overcome the stupidity of his son, Atticus. He selected twenty-four little slaves of the boy's own age to be educated with him, and upon them bestowed the names of the Greek letters. Young Atticus was then compelled to learn the alphabet—by rote, at least—as he romped with his companions, now calling for *Alpha*, now wrestling with *Psi*, and now running a race with swift-footed *Omega*. One of the earlier French princes, noted for his indolence, also acquired his first smattering of knowledge in much the same manner; having twenty-five servants to attend upon him, each of whom had a letter painted upon the front of his attire, and who answered only to the name of his respective character.

In the Russian alphabet there is no H, and the lack of this letter once gave rise to an amusing mistake. Rohl, the traveler, was visiting the great church of St. Alexander Nevskoi at St. Petersburg, (which was named for the canonized Grand Duke Alexander, whose remains are there interred in a silver coffin), when his guide astonished him by pointing to a corner and saying: "There lies a cannibal." On nearer inspection, however, it was found that the tomb was that of the illustrious General Hannibal, but, as the Russians have no H, they had changed the letter into K, and hence the remarkable, and not very flattering, misnomer.

THE most splendid tomb in England is undoubtedly that of the Duke of Hamilton, in the grounds of the Hamilton Palace. It cost \$900,000. It is a model of the castle of San Angelo at Rome. The gates are a copy of the Ghiberti gates at Florence, and the coffin of the Duke is enclosed in an Egyptian sarcophagus of black marble, which was brought from Alexandria.

THE strongest wood in the United States, according to Prof. Sargent, is that of the nutmeg hickory of the Arkansas region; and the weakest is the West Indian birch. The most elastic is the tamarack.



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

French have already a powerful hold. The Germans have planted colonies in various parts, and by some are said to be the most strongly established. Turkey is a falling empire and it is sincerely to be hoped that Palestine may soon come into the hands of a Christian nation.

What may be the immediate result of this effort at possession, on the part of so many nations, no man can say. In my opinion it will depend largely on the outcome of the present European troubles, which it would seem must sooner or later be settled by war.

Of late years the Jews have been returning to Jerusalem in very large numbers, until they now compose more than half of the population. Thus is prophecy being fulfilled, and it would seem that the time is not far distant when, as foretold, they will again people the land and obtain possession. The capital of wealthy Jews is being invested to this end.

There are many other things I would like to write on this deeply interesting subject, but, lest I weary you, I must close. Returning from Jerusalem by the same route we went, we sailed back to Port Said, thence to take ship for London.



Long and Short Alphabets.

THE number of letters in the alphabet varies largely in different tongues, as you will see by glancing through the following list.

The wild little boys and girls of the Sandwich Islands have only twelve characters to bother their baby brains over, while the Burmese come next with just nineteen. The Italians follow very close with twenty, the Bengalese with twenty-one, and

of twenty-seven, Arabic twenty-eight, Persian and Coptic thirty-two, Georgian thirty-five, Armenian thirty-eight. Russian forty-one, Muscovite forty-three, Japanese fifty, Sanscrit one hundred, Ethiopic and Tartarian two hundred and two, while the Chinese display the astounding number of two hundred and fourteen elementary signs or keys, from which they form combinations, that being the actual count of alphabetical characters up to eighty thousand. Just think how those poor little pig-tailed heads must ache before the "primer" is finished!

The Cherokee Indians also have an alphabet of their own, consisting of eighty-six letters, and the invention of this is considered one of the most remarkable events in the history of our aborigines.



JERUSALEM FROM OLIVET.

It was in the early part of the present century that the curiosity of certain sachems of that tribe was aroused by seeing a white man read a paper important to their welfare. He deceived them, and in solemn conclave they held a discussion as to